

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 28, 2006

Appln. No. 10/694,276

- 2 -

March 20, 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 (original). An electric battery having a plurality of aqueous electrolyte cells, said battery being connectable to a fluid source for replenishing fluid in said cells, said battery comprising:

a fluid conduit fixed to said battery and capable of being connected in fluid communication with said fluid source, said fluid conduit being in fluid communication with said cells;

a valve system operatively associated with said fluid conduit for controlling fluid flow from said fluid source, through said fluid conduit and to said cells;

an electrolyte level sensor capable of generating signals indicative of an amount of electrolyte in at least one of said cells; and

a controller attached to said battery and in communication with said electrolyte level sensor and said valve system, said controller controlling said valve system to allow fluid to flow to said cells in response to signals from said level sensor indicative of a deficient amount of electrolyte in said cells, and preventing fluid flow to said cells in response to signals from said level sensor indicative of a sufficient amount of electrolyte in said cells.

2 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 1, wherein said valve system comprises:

a conduit valve positioned in said fluid conduit to control fluid flow from said fluid source to said cells, said conduit valve being in communication with and under the control of said controller for opening and closing thereof;

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 28, 2006

Appln. No. 10/694,276

- 3 -

March 20, 2007

a plurality of cell valves, one of said cell valves being positioned in each of said cells for controlling fluid flow from said fluid conduit to each of said cells.

3 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 2, wherein each of said cell valves comprises a valve member responsive to a level of fluid in each said cell to effect opening of said cell valve when said amount of fluid is less than a first predetermined amount, and closing of said cell valve when said amount of fluid is greater than a second predetermined amount.

4 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 2, wherein said controller comprises a microprocessor.

5 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 4, wherein said conduit valve is electrically openable and closable by said microprocessor.

6 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 1, wherein said fluid source has a fitting connectable to said fluid conduit through a coupling attached to said battery, said coupling comprising:

a biasing member positioned between said coupling and said fitting for ejecting said fitting away from and out of engagement with said coupling; and

a latch movable between a first position engaging and holding said fitting in engagement with said coupling against said biasing member, and a second position releasing said fitting from engagement with said coupling, said latch being actuated between said first and second positions by said controller.

7 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 6, wherein said latch is electrically actuatable between said positions.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 28, 2006

Appln. No. 10/694,276

- 4 -

March 20, 2007

8 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 6, wherein said latch comprises a sensor adapted to generate signals indicative of engagement and disengagement of said fitting with said coupling, said sensor being in communication with said controller.

9 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 1, further comprising a ventilated cover positioned on said battery over said controller and said valve system.

10 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 9, wherein said cover is locked to said battery thereby restricting access to said controller and said valve system.

11 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 1, further including:

a charging sensor capable of generating a signal indicating when said battery is being charged, said charging sensor being in communication with said controller; and

an air pump in fluid communication with said cells, said air pump being in communication with and controlled by said controller and pumping air into said cells to promote mixing of said fluid therein and thereby prevent acid stratification during charging.

12 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 11, wherein said charging sensor comprises a Hall Effect device mounted on said battery for measuring flow of electrical current to said battery indicative of charging.

13 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 11, wherein said charging sensor comprises an electrical shunt device mounted on said battery for measuring flow of electrical current to said battery indicative of charging.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 28, 2006

Appln. No. 10/694,276

- 5 -

March 20, 2007

14 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 11, further comprising an air conduit fixed to said battery and extending to each of said cells, said air conduit providing fluid communication between said air pump and said cells.

15 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 11, further comprising a ventilated cover positioned on said battery over said controller, said valve system and said air pump.

16 (original). An electric battery according to Claim 15, wherein said cover is locked to said battery thereby restricting access to said controller, said valve system and said air pump.

Claims 17-31 (canceled).

32 (original). A method of replenishing fluid to cells of an electric battery having a liquid electrolyte, said method comprising the steps of:

- connecting said battery to a fluid source;
- sensing when said electrolyte in said battery is low; and
- allowing fluid to flow from said fluid source to said cells through a conduit fixed to said battery.

33 (original). A method according to Claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

- sensing when said electrolyte in said battery is adequate; and
- halting flow of said fluid to said cells.